

REMARKS

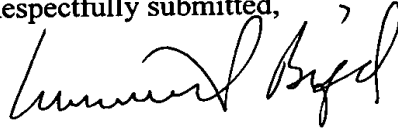
In response to the Restriction Requirement of June 18, 2003, Applicants hereby elect Species IV corresponding to Claims 75-77. This election is being made without traverse, because Applicants agree that four patentably distinct species are present. This election also is being made without prejudice to the filing of one or more divisional applications for Species I-III.

Claim 75 has been amended to provide proper antecedent basis for the mating connector faces, and Claim 76 has been amended to provide proper antecedent basis for the closely spaced apart relation. These amendments have been made to provide proper antecedent basis and are not related to patentability. Accordingly, the full range of equivalents continues to be available. New dependent Claims 90-94 have been added to claim other aspects of the electrical connector. Moreover, Claims 95-102 have been added to separately claim the male and/or female parts of the electrical connector. Claims 103-110 are analogous means-plus-function claims. Finally, the title has been changed to reflect the election of Species IV.

A petition for a one-month extension of time also is being filed concurrently.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request favorable examination and allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,




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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on July 29, 2003.


Susan E. Freedman
Date of Signature: July 29, 2003